



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 314**

February Session, 2012

Substitute House Bill No. 5446

*House of Representatives, April 10, 2012*

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ROY of the 119th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT PROCEDURE FOR THE  
STERILIZATION AND VACCINATION OF CERTAIN DOGS AND CATS  
AND PROVIDING FOR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER TRAINING.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 22-380f of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2012*):

4 (a) No pound shall sell or give away any unspayed or unneutered  
5 dog or cat to any person unless such pound receives forty-five dollars  
6 from the person buying or adopting such dog or cat. Funds received  
7 pursuant to this section shall be paid quarterly by the municipality  
8 into the animal population control account established under section  
9 22-380g, as amended by this act. At the time of receipt of such  
10 payment, the pound shall [provide] complete a voucher, for the  
11 purpose of [sterilization and vaccination] benefits, as provided in  
12 section 22-380i, for the sterilization and vaccination of such dog or cat  
13 and (1) provide the voucher to the person buying or adopting such dog

14 or cat, [Such] or (2) retain such voucher and submit it to a  
15 participating veterinarian for such sterilization and vaccination before  
16 releasing the dog or cat to the person buying or adopting the dog or  
17 cat. Any such voucher shall be on a form provided by the  
18 commissioner and signed (A) by the eligible owner if the voucher is  
19 provided to the person buying or adopting the dog or cat, or (B) by a  
20 representative of the pound if the pound retains the voucher. Such  
21 voucher shall become void after sixty days from the date of purchase  
22 or adoption unless a participating veterinarian certifies that the dog or  
23 cat is medically unfit for surgery. Such certification shall be on a form  
24 provided by the commissioner and specify a date by which such dog  
25 or cat may be fit for sterilization. If the surgery is performed more than  
26 thirty days after such specified date, the voucher shall become void. In  
27 the case of a dog or cat that has been previously sterilized or is  
28 permanently medically unfit for sterilization, as determined by a  
29 participating veterinarian, the voucher shall be void and the eligible  
30 owner may apply to the commissioner for a refund in the amount of  
31 forty-five dollars. If a dog or cat has pyometra and is not purchased or  
32 adopted from a pound, a representative of the pound may complete a  
33 voucher, for the purpose of benefits, as provided in section 22-380i,  
34 and submit such voucher to a participating veterinarian for the  
35 sterilization and vaccination of such dog or cat.

36 Sec. 2. Section 22-328 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
37 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

38 (a) The commissioner is authorized to enforce the provisions of this  
39 chapter and chapters 436 and 436a and the regulations adopted  
40 thereunder in accordance with the provisions of such chapters and  
41 chapter 54.

42 (b) The commissioner shall appoint, as provided by chapter 67: (1) A  
43 Chief State Animal Control Officer; (2) an Assistant Chief State Animal  
44 Control Officer, who shall perform all the duties of the Chief State  
45 Animal Control Officer in such officer's absence or inability, or at such  
46 officer's direction; and (3) not more than twelve state animal control

47 officers and as many regional animal control officers and assistants as  
48 may be deemed necessary to insure, subject to the commissioner's  
49 direction, the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter and  
50 chapters 436 and 436a and the enforcement of regulations adopted by  
51 the commissioner. The expenses incurred in the administration of this  
52 chapter and chapters 436 and 436a shall be paid from dog funds in the  
53 custody of the State Treasurer which have been received from the  
54 several municipalities and from the commissioner for the same fiscal  
55 year as the expenses are incurred.

56 (c) No person may begin serving in the position of state, regional or  
57 municipal animal control officer on or after July 1, 2012, unless such  
58 person (1) has completed a training program that meets the  
59 requirements of subsection (d) of this section and received a certificate  
60 of such completion from the commissioner pursuant to subsection (e)  
61 of this section, or (2) submits an affidavit to the commissioner agreeing  
62 to complete such a training program not later than one year after  
63 beginning such position. The commissioner shall reimburse each  
64 person completing such a training program for the costs of the  
65 program, from the animal population control account established in  
66 section 22-380g, as amended by this act.

67 (d) Not later than July 1, 2012, the commissioner shall prescribe the  
68 standards and curriculum for a training program for persons  
69 interested in serving in the position of animal control officer or  
70 appointed on or after July 1, 2012, to such position. Such training  
71 program shall consist of eighty or more hours of instruction. The  
72 curriculum for such program shall include the following topics:

73 (1) Animal identification;

74 (2) State laws governing animal control and protection and animal  
75 cruelty;

76 (3) Animal health and disease recognition, control and prevention;

77 (4) The humane care and treatment of animals;

- 78     (5) Standards for care and control of animals in an animal shelter;
- 79     (6) Standards and procedures for the transportation of animals;
- 80     (7) Principles and procedures for capturing and handling stray  
81 domestic animals and wildlife, including principles and procedures to  
82 be followed with respect to an instrument used specifically for  
83 detering the bite of an animal;
- 84     (8) First aid for injured animals;
- 85     (9) Documentation of animal cruelty evidence and courtroom  
86 procedures;
- 87     (10) Animal shelter operations and administration;
- 88     (11) Spaying and neutering, microchipping and adoption;
- 89     (12) Communications and public relations;
- 90     (13) Search warrants and affidavits;
- 91     (14) Civil liability for the animal control officer;
- 92     (15) Crisis intervention and officer safety; and
- 93     (16) Any other topics pertinent to animal control and animal shelter  
94 personnel.
- 95     (e) Upon satisfactorily completing such training program, a person  
96 shall submit evidence of such completion to the commissioner, and the  
97 commissioner shall issue a certificate to such person. The certificate  
98 shall contain the person's name, the name of the training program and  
99 the date of completion. The commissioner may charge a reasonable fee  
100 to cover the cost of issuance of such certificate. The commissioner shall  
101 maintain records to document compliance with subsection (c) of this  
102 section.
- 103     (f) Each animal control officer shall complete a minimum of six  
104 hours of continuing education related to the duties of an animal

105 control officer in each calendar year. The commissioner shall adopt  
 106 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,  
 107 concerning the implementation of such continuing education  
 108 requirement.

109 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 22-380g of the general statutes is  
 110 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
 111 *passage*):

112 (e) Any revenue collected pursuant to the provisions of sections 22-  
 113 380f and 22-380l shall be deposited in the animal population control  
 114 account. All money in the account shall be used by the commissioner  
 115 exclusively for (1) the implementation and promotion of the animal  
 116 population control program, [and for] (2) the costs associated with the  
 117 administration of [the] such program, provided not more than two  
 118 hundred twenty-five thousand dollars may be expended for  
 119 administrative costs per year, and (3) reimbursement of persons  
 120 completing a training program pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of  
 121 section 22-328, as amended by this act, for the costs of such program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	22-380f(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-328
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22-380g(e)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In section 2(d)(10), "administrations" was changed to "administration" for accuracy, in the first sentence of section 2(e), "officer" was changed to "person" for statutory consistency, and section 3 was added for consistency with section 2(c).

**ENV** Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 13 \$</b>	<b>FY 14 \$</b>
Department of Agriculture	GF, Non-Appropriated (Animal Population Control Account)- Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

#### **Municipal Impact:** None

#### **Explanation**

The bill requires any new animal control officer (ACO) to complete at least 80 hours of initial training. It is anticipated to cost \$900 to train one ACO. Each year, approximately 30 new ACO's are hired by municipalities. Thus, the statewide cost to train ACO's is estimated to be \$27,000.

Under the bill, the Department of Agriculture's Animal Population Control (APC) account would provide reimbursement to each person who completes the ACO training. The March 2012 non-appropriated report shows a cash balance of approximately \$970,000 in the APC account. It is estimated that the ACO training reimbursements would be \$27,000 annually.

Under the bill, reimbursements from the APC account are expected to increase as the municipal pound is allowed to complete and retain a voucher to have the animal sterilized and vaccinated before releasing it to the individual adopting it.

#### **The Out Years**

The ongoing fiscal impact described above would continue into the future subject to inflation, the number of municipal animal control

officers who are new on an annual basis and require initial training, and the number of vouchers that are redeemed for sterilization or vaccination.

*Sources: Core-CT Financial Accounting System*

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5446*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT PROCEDURE FOR THE STERILIZATION AND VACCINATION OF CERTAIN DOGS AND CATS AND PROVIDING FOR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER TRAINING.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires new animal control officers (ACOs) starting on or after July 1, 2012 to complete at least 80 hours of initial ACO training. It also requires all ACOs to complete at least six hours of continuing education training annually. The agriculture commissioner must (1) prescribe the initial ACO training curriculum, which must include specified topics; (2) reimburse costs for people participating in the initial ACO training; and (3) adopt regulations concerning the continuing education requirement.

The law establishes a voucher system for paying veterinarians who vaccinate and sterilize impounded, quarantined, or stray dogs and cats. By law, people acquiring an unspayed or unneutered dog or cat from a pound must pay the pound \$45 for a voucher to sterilize and vaccinate the animal. The bill allows a pound to complete and retain a voucher to have the animal sterilized and vaccinated before releasing it to the person adopting or buying it. It also allows a pound to complete and submit a voucher to a veterinarian to sterilize and vaccinate a dog or cat that has not been adopted or bought and has pyometra, an infection of the uterus.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage, except for the voucher provisions, which are effective October 1, 2012.

**NEW ACO TRAINING**

Under the bill, a person cannot begin serving as an ACO on or after



July 1, 2012 unless he or she (1) completes at least 80 hours of ACO training and receives a certificate of completion from the agriculture commissioner or (2) provides the commissioner with an affidavit agreeing to complete the training within one year of starting as an ACO.

The bill requires the commissioner to maintain records to document compliance with this training requirement.

***Training Cost***

The bill requires the commissioner to reimburse each person who completes the ACO training the costs of the program from the animal population control account.

***Training Curriculum***

The bill requires the commissioner, by July 1, 2012, to prescribe the ACO training standards and curriculum, which must include:

1. animal identification;
2. state laws on animal control, protection, and cruelty;
3. animal health and disease recognition, control, and prevention;
4. the humane care and treatment of animals;
5. animal care and control standards in an animal shelter;
6. animal transportation standards and procedures;
7. principles and procedures for capturing and handling stray domestic animals and wildlife, including how to deter an animal from biting;
8. first aid for injured animals;
9. documenting animal cruelty evidence and courtroom procedures;

10. animal shelter operations and administration;
11. animal spaying, neutering, microchipping, and adoption;
12. communications and public relations;
13. search warrants and affidavits;
14. ACO civil liability;
15. crisis intervention and officer safety; and
16. other topics related to animal control and animal shelter personnel.

***Training Certificate***

The bill requires a person, upon satisfactorily completing the ACO training, to give the commissioner evidence of completing the program. The commissioner must then issue the person a certificate that contains the person's name, the training program name, and the completion date. The bill allows the commissioner to charge a reasonable fee for the certificate.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27      Nay 1      (03/21/2012)